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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Sept. 18, 1996

MICROSOFT, HEWLETT-PACKARD EQUIP UM BUSINESS SCHOOL'S COMPUTER CENTER

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana School of Business Administration will send students into the corporate world armed with knowledge of the most current technology, thanks to gifts from two computer industry giants.

UM alumni working for Hewlett-Packard Co. and Microsoft Corp. teamed up to spearhead efforts to equip the state-of-the-art computer center in the new William and Rosemary Gallagher Building for the School of Business Administration. The \$15.5 million building, built with state bonds and private donations, opened for business this fall with the most current computer technology on the market.

A \$303,415 grant from Hewlett-Packard paid for more than 100 personal computers and four network servers for the center, while Microsoft Corp. employees donated software applications used in today's business world. Employees of both companies, all UM alums, donated their time and travel to install the equipment and train business school faculty and staff on its use.

"There was a lot of involvement in both organizations," said Larry Gianchetta, business school dean. "There was so much time devoted by a number of UM alums that it makes it impossible to attach a specific dollar amount to the companies' donations."

Calling the two companies "substantially large players" in the building's construction,

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Gianchetta said the gifts approached the initial \$1 million donation from the late William Gallagher and his wife, Rosemary, for whom the building is named.

Gianchetta said the Microsoft-Hewlett Packard gifts have established the computer center as a showcase for current technology and the school itself as a leader among business schools in the Rocky Mountain West. The new equipment also more than doubled the number of computer stations available to students on the UM campus.

"Anywhere in the world would look at what's installed there and say, 'wow, this is some pretty good stuff,'" said John Connors, Microsoft's chief information officer and a 1984 graduate of the UM business school. "If The University of Montana had to go buy this from a retailer, it would have cost them a boatload of money."

"This is state-of-the-art equipment," said Bill McGlynn, general manager of Hewlett-Packard's personal LaserJet Printer division in Boise, Idaho, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from UM in 1980 and 1981. "This networking equipment and network software puts the UM business school on the leading edge of technology. It opens the door to some really sophisticated Internet connectivity and helps students understand what they'll need to work in the real world."

Enlisting employees to give something back to their alma mater was no problem at either company, according to Connors and McGlynn.

"Microsoft has a large and active Montana group and a large and active University of Montana group that provided the funds and expertise to buy the software and get it installed," Connors said. "Both Bill and I are in senior positions in our companies, and we got employees

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rallied around this project. Once we got it in our minds that we were going to do this, there was no looking back."

Because of the number of alumni employed there, Microsoft was able to convince its vendor, Entex, to install the software without any cost to UM.

UM received the largest of 24 grants awarded by Hewlett-Packard to universities around the nation. Hewlett-Packard considered 132 proposals selecting recipients based on its relationship with the university, including its recruiting record with the institution.

McGlynn said he has successfully recruited UM graduates who have performed as well as graduates of the nation's top business schools. "The University of Montana turns out students who are high quality and know what they are doing," McGlynn said, "and we have evidence of that here. That's why we're reinvesting in the school. Helping education is good business."

Gianchetta said the school's computer center will be named for Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard and bear each corporation's logo. The new business building will be officially dedicated in a ceremony at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11, during Homecoming 1996 festivities. The business school plans an all-school reunion for that weekend.

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